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THE BELL RINGER

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MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

May, 1974

Garage Sale Earns \$2000

MBA sponsored a garage sale on March 16th and 17th to raise money for the Grace M. Eaton Day Home. The school, with strong student and faculty support, earned over \$2000 for the day home.

The Grace M. Eaton Day Home, located on 17th Avenue, North, is a day home for black underprivileged children whose mothers and fathers work during the day. The children are of pre-school age with a large percentage of them

coming from a housing project across the street. The money raised by the sale will be used to provide much-needed play-ground equipment.

Each MBA student was asked to bring at least five articles from home to be sold at the garage sale. The great variety of articles present made it possible for the garage sale to be a success.

Under the leadership of student body president John Elam, MBA also held a light bulb sale to raise more money for the day

home. In addition, Elam is heading a group of students to do volunteer work with the children. A student is allowed to go to the day home instead of to athletics once a week.

In recognition of its hard work for the day home, the Tennessee House of Representatives passed a resolution honoring MBA and its students. This resolution along with a letter of thanks from Mrs. Dyer at the home assured the student body that its work was greatly appreciated.



Chess Team Wins League

MBA's chess team placed third in the Mid-South Regional Championship recently. Participants were Miller Batson, Bruce Stearns, Johnny Moore, Mark Ishee, Steve Ellis, Joel Koenig, and chess coach Mr. Fairbairn.

The team also recently won the Nashville High School League Championship over Peabody, Dupont, and four other schools. MBA's record was 22 wins, one loss, and two draws.

Batson won a cash prize of \$26.50 at the Music City Spring Tournament for his fine showing. Five other chess team members participated, but did not place in money-winning positions.



The Varsity Tennis team remains undefeated in the NIL. Above is junior leader Johnny Howell.

Five Students Place In Belmont Wordfest

This year MBA entered Wordfest, the literary contest sponsored by Belmont College, for the second time. Although the school did not receive the necessary information in time from Belmont, several of its belated entries won awards.

In the category of journalism, two articles which originally appeared in the BELL RINGER received second and third places. They were, respectively, "God-like Daniel and the TSSAA: A History Lesson" by Randy Bibb and "An Interview with Alumnus-Author Joe Howell" by Mitch Walker.

In the one-act play category,

Chris Armour and Rupert Palmer were awarded second place for their play "The Juggernaut." Palmer won a prize in this category last year.

In the Junior High division, Marshall Summar received second prize in short stories for his "The Night Sweeper." Several other people from MBA submitted works but did not win prizes.

Palmer, school Wordfest chairman for the past two years, expects considerable success in coming years with more publicity.

"The talent is here. We just need to get it all together and choose from a wide range of works. MBA has some of the most

literary, if not necessarily the most literary, students in the city and should do well in any such contest."

"I think it is significant that in one category one of our works came in second to that of a former MBA student."

Asked about the small number of entries this year, Palmer said:

"They—Belmont—just didn't give us enough time. We got the information so late it was only because Armour, Bibb, and Mitch Walker typed one whole afternoon that we entered anything at all. The man from Belmont apologized and promised better information next year."

Armour Tapped Into Totomoi

Chris Armour, co-editor-in-chief of the BELL RINGER, was recently tapped into Totomoi. Armour achieved the highest award presented to MBA students for his work in academics, publications, and organizations.

Totomoi, an exclusive honorary fraternity, was started in 1954 by Dr. R. L. Sager, Inman Fox and Robert McNeilly.

Only seniors are eligible in the first tapping of the year. In the case of a second ceremony, juniors along with alumni, faculty, and friends of the school can be admitted. Students must excel in three of five categories in order to be considered for membership: scholarship; athletics; student government; organizations; forensics and dramatics; and publications and citizenship.

In addition to being a co-editor of this paper, Armour participates in drama, forensics, and has been named a Finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program.



Walter Morgan, Salutatorian; Marc Stengel, Valedictorian.

Baseball Outlook Good

The Big Red's Varsity Baseball team has been picked to finish first in the 24th district in the Tennessee's pre-season poll. "I feel that's an optimistic prediction," said baseball coach Mr. John Bennett.

Coach Bennett pointed to the young age and the poor defense and hitting in making his evaluation of the pre-season pick. MBA has only three seniors—Russell Carpenter, Reed Trickett, and Dan Hartmann—on this year's squad. "Defense is a problem for every high school team, but I feel our defense is better than most," commented Coach Bennett.

The strongest of the 1974 team should be its pitching. "We should get some good pitching from Robert Harris, Mike Ralston, and Jack Nuissner," said Coach

Bennett. In the opening season game with Hume-Fogg, Harris struck out 18 en route to a close 2-0 win. Weak hitting could be the major problem with this year's squad, but Coach Bennett is looking to junior Nick Ganick to lead the team in batting.

In the last game before Easter, MBA defeated Hendersonville 9-5. Robert Harris and Steve Burch came up with two timely hits each and the Big Red managed six runs in the third inning to pace the Varsity Baseball team to its third victory against no defeats.

Coach Bennett was impressed by the balance in this year's NIL lineup. Each team is stronger than in previous years. "No one will win the district easily," commented Coach Bennett.



The Gent will be back in the next issue.

Top Scholars Named

Marc Stengel and Walter Morgan are the valedictorian and salutatorian of the senior class.

They are the seniors with the highest averages from the ninth grade through the first half of the senior year.

Stengel stresses humanities as shown by his finishing first in the National French contest last year. He is president of the Honor Council and secretary-treasurer of the MBA Service Club. Sten-

gel, who plans to attend Harvard, has also received numerous academic awards at MBA.

Morgan, the salutatorian, has continually placed well in math contests as a result of his emphasis on math and science. He is an Honor Council representative and captain of the golf team. Among his numerous awards at MBA is the Sewanee award given to the outstanding junior. He plans to attend Princeton.

A Diatribe

Chain Fences And Binding Briars

By Rupert Palmer

I went to the Garden of Love,
And saw what I never had seen:
A Chapel was built in the
midst,
Where I used to play on the
green.

And the gates of this Chapel
were shut,
And "Thou shalt not" writ over
the door . . .

And priests in black gowns
were walking their rounds,
And binding with briars my
joys and desires.

—William Blake, from
Songs of Experience
I hope I shall not be accused
of treason or disloyalty to the school
for my comments (or for my
choice of epigram), but it some-

times seems that the slightest criticism, however constructive in intent, is taken as evidence of hate for MBA. In fact, it is often the most loyal student who will criticize aloud while the dissidents grumble quietly together or are a-p-a-t-h-e-t-i-c.

All of this hoopla and this vicious quotation from Blake are in preface to a relatively minor grievance—or, I should say, annoyance. I will admit that Blake was perhaps over vitriolic in his condemnation of external restraints, though the external is not as important as the internal. Part of this school's function, perhaps, is to more fully develop such internal restraint.

But to the subject at hand; there are certain aspects—visible

aspects—of "external restraint" which actually detract from our school's appearance, do not perform their designated function, and constitute an expensive, counter-productive, ugly, useless, dangerous, and generally unhealthy waste. I speak of the chain fences along our school's walks.

The Hill is in chains, gentlemen—let us deliver her! These chains do not protect her natural beauty, but shut it off from her students' enjoyment. We can no longer trip happily through green grass and clover, but must instead stumble along the brick walls, trying to avoid the bothersome chains. My sentence becomes cacophonous at the very thought!

Seriously, the chain fences do

much (being as they are in a state of constant disrepair) to mar a pleasant campus—and as high school campuses go, ours is very pleasant—and pretend to keep students from walking where they naturally tend to and in fact

The grass would grow no less well, I am sure, if all the chains were removed, and there would be less chance of a danger I will not dwell needlessly upon, that of physical injury. I myself was once hurt by falling over a wire fence in an utterly absurd place—one which had, in fact, already been knocked down.

The present chain fences are an improvement over their wire predecessors, being somewhat sturdier and better located, but the

sharp edges still constitute a hazard to passersby, who can easily become snagged (As a matter of fact, this also happened to me recently). Suppose a snagged passerby developed tetanus or some other infection? Would not the school be liable?

Add the expense of constantly resetting posts and installing new ones, and it is apparent what a monetary waste these chains which do not perform a function which should not be performed in the first place actually are. I really believe the school could stop "binding with briars our joys and desires" in this area and spend its money more constructively.

If this be treason, make the most of it.

Sportfolio

Golf: 'We're Number 1!'

(The scene: A typical man-on-the-street interview)

Interviewer: Excuse me, sir.

Average Man: Yes.

Interviewer: I'd like to ask you a few questions. You're going to be on our six o'clock news program.

Average Man: Oh! (He adjusts his glasses and brushes his hair back; all in an attempt to get his "best side" to the camera.) Uh, sure, go ahead.

Interviewer: What sport do you think of when I say Montgomery Bell Academy?

Average Man: Why football, of course.

Interviewer: And what sport has MBA dominated the NIL competition in the last three years?

Average Man: Uh, football, I guess.

Wrong. The correct answer to this question is one of the lesser publicized sports on the Hill: Golf.

In the past three seasons, the MBA golf team has not lost an NIL match. (That's no misprint.) During this span, the Big Red golfers have won the State Championship twice; the other year they finished second.

The Varsity Golf coach for the past three seasons has been Mr. Donald M. Fairbairn. His undefeated string is even better than that of John Wooden. "I guess we haven't lost. At least, I can't remember the last time we lost an NIL match," commented Coach Fairbairn.

"I really don't coach that much. Anybody who can make the team already knows how to play golf. I only make little observations. Walter (Morgan) has a tendency to hit the ball too much forward; whereas, Hugh (Entekin) sometimes stands too close to the ball.

"All our golfers this year are hard-hitters. The hardest shot for them is the little short 'pop' shot; that is, a wedge from just off the green. At Belle Meade, you can hit at the flag and the ball will stop, but at McCabe you're liable to hit it right on over the green.

"We play all of our NIL matches at McCabe. We practice, however, at either McCabe, Harpeth Hills, or Belle Meade."

"We have a new schedule this year," says team captain Walter Morgan with a laugh. "We used to play all our matches on Mondays and Tuesdays. But this year Mr. Fairbairn has scheduled the matches on Mondays and Wednesdays in order to avoid a conflict with my AP Chemistry lab."

MBA won the state title in 1971 and again last year. But it was in 1971-1972 that perhaps the best golf team was collected. The team consisted of seniors Whit Holcomb, Tom Gildemeister, and Chuck Lawrence, and junior David McAlister. Unfortunately the score ballooned in the finals, and the Big Red was forced to settle for the runner-up position.

Will the golf team continue their undefeated streak (perhaps a poor word choice)? This year's team looks to face stiff competition from perennial rival Hillwood. So far this season, the Hillwood scores have been lower than any other NIL school. Coach Fairbairn speaks hopefully: "I don't think that we are playing as well as we are capable. With some more practice, I feel that we should be playing at least as well as Hillwood."

By the time this paper is out, this facet of the NIL race should be settled. MBA played Hillwood on April 26 and again on May 3. Should the Big Red be in the top four of the district, then they would be involved in the district playoffs. From this playoff, the winner goes on to the Regionals. Here, the Big Red could meet Clarksville. "Right now, Clarksville is the strongest power in the mid-state," said Mr. Fairbairn. "They lost only one golfer off last year's squad, but he was the defending state individual champion."

Right now, in mid-April, all things look "go" for MBA to continue on its winning way. And until the Big Red golfers run into their Waterloo or N. C. State, the cry heard on the Hill is "We're Number One!"



Golf Captain Walter Morgan.

Sports Capsules

Todd Baker placed third in the 170-pound division at the State Wrestling Tournament to highlight the 1973-1974 Varsity Wrestling season.

Baker, who finished the year 25-3-1, placed first at the district level and first at the regional

Tournament before losing in the semi-finals of the State held at Nashville's Overton High School.

Joe Thorni, junior guard on the Varsity Basketball squad, made the Honorable Mention list on the Tennessee's All-NIL basketball team.

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